

## IL XV SIMPOSIO MONDIALE

# C'è vita nello spazio? Il racconto della pronipote di Eisenhower

Nella consueta cornice della Repubblica di San Marino, da 22 anni ha luogo questa consolidata manifestazione internazionale, oggi e domani avranno luogo nel Teatro Titano i lavori del XV Simposio Mondiale sulla Esplorazione dello Spazio e la Vita nel Cosmo (questa mattina) e del XXII Simposio Mondiale sugli Oggetti Volanti Non Identificati e i Fenomeni Connessi (dal pomeriggio di oggi a domani). I temi oggetto di queste due manifestazioni complementari sono ri-

spettivamente riferiti a "Spazio e politica" ed "Extraterrestri e politica mondiale", riprendendo le conclusioni della edizione del 2013 in cui si gettarono le basi, ad opera del Centro Ufologico Nazionale, dei necessari "Protocolli di contatto" di cui fare uso in caso di un incontro con esseri extraterrestri. Come sempre coordinati dal sociologo e giornali-

sta aerospaziale Roberto Pinotti, portavoce del Cun e direttore del mensile Ufo International Magazine, quest'anno, con oratori da Usa, Inghilterra, Germania, Svizzera e Italia, saranno così approfonditi scenari di carattere "esodiplomatico". A parte l'intervento del ricercatore inglese Gary Heseltine, direttore della rivista informatica a carattere ufologico Ufo Truth Magazin, di quello di Candida Mammoliti presidente del Cusi (Centro Ufologico della Svizzera Italiana) e di quelli di Cristina Aldea di Colonia, che al pari della giornalista televisiva di Studiaperto di Mediaset Sabrina Pieragostini metterà a fuoco gli ultimi sviluppi del problema in Germania, il maggiore interesse del pubblico sarà attirato da Laura Magdalene Eisenhower, pronipote del Presidente degli Usa Dwight Eisenhower. Laura, infatti, non ha mai fatto mistero di essere certa che la storia secondo cui il bisnonno, esattamente 50 anni fa, si sarebbe incontrato in segreto con una delegazione di piloti extraterrestri, sarebbe in effetti assolutamente fondata. E su questo presunto incontro, svoltosi nel 1954 nella californiana base aerea di Edwards, si svilupperà il suo intervento.











(Fortsetzung folgt).

(Fortsetzung folgt)



# Science's Fuel of the Future

One of the most important questions now pressing for determination is that of fuel.

As civilization progresses the wants of man multiply. The development of tastes born of the new conditions engages the attention of every inventive mind in the endeavor to supply new wants. The present century marks the advance of the material world with a rapidity unparalleled in history. What were considered luxuries are now deemed necessities. The man of to-day looks with wonderment upon the life of his ancestry, unable to understand how it was possible that contentment had a place in the mode of living a hundred years ago.

As the expression of each new taste found its material complement, the belief in the attainment of every desire has grown stronger, until there are but few at the present day who can be found to assert that in man's capabilities there is anything impossible.

The most marvelous developments have occurred in the realm of physics, and therefore in the department of industrial and mechanical arts. An evidence of such progress may be found in the record of patents issued during the hundred years last past by all nations. Over 1,000,000 letters patent have been granted for inventions, of which the United States has contributed six-tenths. Besides inventions covered by patents, it is a conservative estimate to place the non-patented devices as exceeding the patented ones threefold.

The production of these innumerable mechanical appliances requires what is known as "power," and power, except in a few instances, is dependent upon an expenditure of fuel.

The cultivation of civilized man's tastes has led to an interchange of products, resulting in commerce, requiring a further expenditure of power and a consequent further expenditure of fuel.

With developed intelligence has come the desire to personally know all that is possible about other localities, and so travel has developed. But the old methods of the ox-cart have been supplanted by the modern ways. The modern man is unsatisfied with all but the best conveniences of travel. The railroad train and the steamship are alike moving palaces, in which are found all the luxuries of the age applicable to the enjoyment of life, waking or sleeping.

To remove these huge aggregations of mechanical comforts from place to place, whether upon land or water, demands an enormous expenditure of power and its generator, fuel.

The ocean steamer requires an average of two pounds of coal for each horsepower. It must be seen that the immense battleships, employing from 30,000 to 50,000 horsepower, are therefore practically limited in their effectiveness by reason of the enormous load of fuel they are compelled to carry. No war vessel can remain out of port for any great length of time because of her inability to carry the fuel requisite for a lengthy cruise. In the recent pursuit of commerce the freight capacity of the steam vessel is largely absorbed by the weight of necessary fuel, while in the case of the railroad using steam power a like difficulty exists.

A very great area of our country is composed of treeless plains, and its settlement has been and is to-day retarded by the difficulty in procuring requisite fuel. Moreover, forests are diminishing. True, coal is yet to be had in abundance, but in very many instances has to be transported long distances from the mine to the place of its application.

Electricity as a motive power will never occupy its legitimate place until it is relieved from its dependence on fuel. Natural water-power is capable of producing cheap electrical energy, but the localities where available water-power exists are exceedingly few.

Meantime the population of the earth is increasing with increasing ratio, and the expansion of man's exactions keeps pace with the rapid growth. The output of coal has risen in fifty years from 5,000,000 tons in 1845 to 196,442,451 tons in 1895.

From this brief glance at existing conditions we may well conclude that there is no question of greater importance than is that of fuel.

In the olden times the alchemist held a prominent place in the opinion of the people. He was supposed to be the possessor of occult knowledge and able to put in practice hidden laws of nature to attain the accomplishment of his peculiar ends. While his reputed ability to transform the baser metals into gold had a tendency to throw into the shade whatever he accomplished in the humbler operations of his guild, yet even in his time the true value of his profession did not fail of recognition among those of his fellow-men whose common-sense rose superior to their superstition. To-day the chemist is the conceded master spirit generally able to shape the key to most of the complicated locks under which are kept the treasures of material physics. The development from the alchemist to the chemist has been gradual but immense. The one is no longer the applier to spells and incantations, and while the chemist does not literally transmute the copper and lead into the more precious metal, yet he does, by his better knowledge of natural processes, convert to gold, and what is far more valuable—the improvement of human living—nearly all of the grosser elements.

Chemistry tells us that fuel is a material of combustion. We burn fuel to produce heat, sometimes applying the heat to uses of domestic nature, as in our cooking and heating stoves, and sometimes to other ends, as in the production of steam for power. In either case the fuel is burned. It undergoes combustion.

We learn from chemistry that two things are necessary for the process of combustion to succeed—something to burn and something to support the burning, and that the two things best fitted to meet these requirements are hydrogen and oxygen. The one, hydrogen, is the most combustible element known, and the second, oxygen, the best supporter of combustion. Of course, many other things than hydrogen, pure and simple, will burn, and combustion may be carried on in chlorine to some extent. (Advanced chemistry is not certain that chlorine is not an amorphous condition of oxygen.) Yet, so universal is the presence of oxygen in all combustion, that the term "oxidation" is a synonym for "burning."

From the earliest times man has used water for the purpose of extinguishing fire. And yet water is composed entirely of hydrogen and oxygen. There used to be a saying, frequently applied to a visionary genius whose boasted ability failed of accomplishment, that "he'd never see the river on fire." Seriously speaking, we are

apparently nearing that time when to set a river on fire will be a very ordinary task, literally and actually. To-day a number of appliances depend entirely upon the ability to burn water. The natives of our own and foreign governments employ a signal-buoy for life-saving purposes which carries a compound known as "calcium-phosphide," a combination of phosphorus and calcium, which, when it comes into contact with water bursts into flame. Quite a number of elements produce combustion on coming in contact with water—phosphorus, sodium and others. Now, neither the phosphorus nor the sodium burns. It is the hydrogen of the water that does. The phosphorus and the sodium have a remarkable affinity for oxygen, and as soon as they come into contact with water the oxygen of the water is at once appropriated and the separated hydrogen makes the flame. Pure hydrogen burns with a colorless flame, and so in the case of the life-buoy, where a visible signal is desired, some calcium is added to give a white color to the burning hydrogen.

Advantage of the wonderful richness of water in the elements of combustion is taken in the production of the gas now generally used to light our cities and dwellings. Red-hot cast iron has a great affinity for oxygen. So in the manufacture of water gas there is used a cast iron pipe, having its inside roughened. This pipe is maintained at a red heat, and while so heated there is forced through it a stream of superheated steam. In its passage through the hot pipe the oxygen of the steam is seized by the hot iron and appropriated to purposes of oxidation, and there issues from the other end of the pipe nearly pure hydrogen. It now simply requires that this hydrogen shall be mixed with some carbon to render its burning visible to fit it for illumination. This is accomplished by causing the hydrogen to pass over the surface of gasoline or other hydro-carbon oil, when it is ready to use as an illuminant. Should the gas be required only for the purpose of heating the carbonizing process is omitted.

What an increasing freight capacity would be had, what economy, if it were possible to fit an ocean vessel with the means of utilizing the element in which it floats, to the production of heat and consequent mechanical power. What a simple solution of the question of settling the treeless plains were the settler able to apply the water of the spring, or the stream, or that of the rainfall to the needs of his domestic ends.

The process of gas-making would involve more cumbersome apparatus than could be used, and that of phosphorus is too costly. Some other means must attain to make the ocean available as a reservoir of fuel.

Electricity has the power to decompose water and to separate all water into its constituent elements, hydrogen and oxygen, so that they may be collected in all their purity in separate vessels. But in the state of our present knowledge of electrical energy the process of electrolysis will not permit of its application to the production of hydrogen for any economical use in mechanical methods.

Recently the claim has been made by a Swedish chemist of his ability to successfully decompose water, economically and with exceedingly simple means.

To understand intelligently the claims of the Swede we must have a knowledge of what water is. Water is a mechanical combination, not a chemical one. Let me explain. If you take some oil and water and placing them in a bottle shake the mixture thoroughly, there will be produced a milky looking result. Now set the bottle aside for a period; then when you next look at it you will see that the oil and water have separated; the oil is on top and the water at the bottom, their respective positions being due to the difference in their specific gravities. Now add to the mixture some alkali, and again thoroughly shake it. You have then produced a saponaceous compound, a soap, that will not again separate into its component elements, but will preserve its soapy character. The first mixture was a mechanical one, the last a chemical.

Water is an association of hydrogen and oxygen held in mechanical mixture.

Professor Ostrom's claim is that he has discovered a means, electrical in character, whereby superheated steam may be separated into the elements of water, hydrogen and oxygen, available for purposes of complete combustion.

I am not in receipt of any sketch of the apparatus employed and can only describe the affair from the written text of Professor Ostrom's letter.

Should the Swedish savant's claim be proven good and feasible—and it is within the grounds of probability—what a revolution will be wrought. The length of the battle-ship's cruises will be measured only by the necessities of her service. The ocean liner will be able to diminish her time of transit, by her ability to utilize the space and weight now sacred to the coal-bunkers in the enlargement of her motive power. The freighter, instead of having to sacrifice half of her capacity to coal fuel, will use that space for additional cargo. The maintenance of railroad operation will be relieved of the enormous expense of providing immense stores of coal at points far distant from the mines. The individual everywhere will be independent of the forest and the "coal baron." Then will the age of machinery spring into its loftiest possibilities. Man will simply "turn the faucet." Nature will do the rest.

FRANK M. CLOSER, D.Sc.

## To Support Plants.

A device to support growing plants is the invention of James Horan of Bridgeport, Conn. It consists of a series of U-shaped uprights that are each formed from a single piece of iron rod. One end of the rod forms a part to stick into the ground and hold it in position.

These uprights are held together, at the proper distance apart, by heavy wire, so that they can be placed in rows from one end of the bed to the other.

It is intended that this device shall be placed over such plants as peas and beans, so that the product will be kept off the ground. The contrivance should certainly be cheap to manufacture, and there is no doubt about its labor-saving qualities when the amount of time that is usually consumed in procuring brush and cutting it and placing it in position so that it will answer the same purpose is considered. The Horan contrivance would, of course, do the work much better and thereby add to the quantity of the crop.

Russia's European area is 2,095,504 square miles, and total, with its Asiatic possessions, 8,644,100 square miles. The total population is about 115,000,000.



[Flammarion's unpublished view of Mars as a companion to our planet in November of 1894.]

"At sea on a long passage in an ocean steamer, there arrives a period when we have become tolerably familiar with the passengers and the objects on board, and when we begin to cast longing eyes outward upon the distant sails on the horizon, craving to pass beyond the bulwarks of our floating prison, at least in imagination, and to make ourselves feel less alone by conjecturing the conditions that obtain upon those other refuges that traverse the watery waste.

"Some such period has arrived in our long passage through infinite space, with no nearer company than other planets and the sun. Astronomically speaking, we have become familiar with our beneficent prison, earth, and we have noted, as we think, the most of the important outward facts concerning the immeasurable multitude of brilliant sails upon the celestial ocean; we begin to feel lonely, as it were, and wonder what conditions of life obtain in them, or—depressing thought—if even those nearest to us, the moon and planets, could in truth be void of such life as we could understand and sympathize with; and that we poor atoms could be voyaging alone forever, gifted only with intelligence sufficient to realize our isolation.

"At such a point then in our secular voyage we fix our hopes chiefly upon that planet which of all that we can reach effectively with our present optical appliances bears the most resemblance to our earth; the other planets, veiled with clouds of impenetrable density, and possibly steamy or semi-incandescent heat, seeming unlikely, even if brought within our ken, to contain such life as would have any fellowship with ours. But Mars, upon which all the telescopes, spectroscopes, calorimeters and other astronomical gauges are directed, hoping to derive some new information at this, our nearest approach to him, is the counterpart of our earth in some respects, and deserves all the attention he receives as a possible link with the life of other worlds than ours.

"Though his year is twice as long as ours, his day is nearly like our own; his seasons so nearly similar that his axis, inclined like ours, causes a very visible white cap to gather at the end which for the time is turned away from the sun, and melts it away in summer when the same pole is presented to that glowing orb, just as does the axis of our earth; his seas and continents, which show their well-marked outlines as he turns upon his axis and brings these features in succession into the sunlight and into our view; certain gulf and lake and connecting channels, which vary in outline according to the seasons and the melting and reforming of what we may call the polar snows; these and other points, which will be noted further on, mark him as a possible companion in our solitude and even as a communicable intelligence. True, there are important differences that sometimes militate against the presence of forms of life that would greatly resemble ours. Mars has only one-half the earth's diameter, and only a tenth part of its mass. That is to say, his attractive power is so much less than that of our earth that it is difficult to believe that a man of 140 pounds weight here would weigh only 52 pounds. One can easily imagine, therefore, all the changes in the form and structure of the body this would necessitate; not to speak of distances upon so small a globe being so shortened that each mile is also much more easy to accomplish. Mars' atmosphere, too, since atmosphere there must be to produce the snow we see, must be so thin—so loose in texture, as it were, owing to its small weight—since it does not seem to be deeper than our own, while it is ten times less under the compacting effect of gravity—that the lungs of living, organized beings, as also those of plants, must be of a far greater absorbing and assimilating power than we are familiar with. Such differences of structure and perhaps even of function in the highest order of animal life might, however, not prove insuperable barriers to communication if our progress in the sciences should have so run parallel with that in Mars as to put the two far-separated intelligences nearly upon a level; and here, for our encouragement, we find that Mars, judging by the generally flat and time-worked surface and the apparently small area of water, is, if anything, at a more advanced stage of its history than our earth.

"Since the sunlight has to penetrate the atmosphere of that planet before reaching its surface and then to return through that same atmosphere before being sent back to our eyes we should naturally find some evidence, on looking through the spectroscopic, of some similar or analogous absorption. But no; we are told that nothing can be observed but absorption-lines due to our own atmosphere, through which the rays, however, has to pass, but once. Therefore, it is argued, if atmosphere there be, it must be of such rarity or lightness as would only be found upon the highest earthly mountains. Still there remains the solid fact that the polar caps of Mars could not be formed or dissolved without a very sensible and practicable atmosphere, and it is easier to admit a certain want of competence in so delicate and difficult analysis, or in the conclusions drawn therefrom, than to disbelieve a phenomenon so plainly visible as the alternate snowy accumulations upon the poles of that ruddy, earth-like orb.

"We must not forget, too, that the spectroscopic has been notably disappointing in the investigation of nearly all other bodies shining by reflected light—the moon, to begin with—while so admirably fulfilling its office with the sun and stars—prime luminaries—as also nebulae and comets. Like its limited handmaid, the polariscope, which, being directed upon the lakes of Mars, pronounces that the light reflected from them is not polarized, and therefore that no water exists in them. Like that still more limited handmaid in the work of etheral undulations, the thermoscope or bolometer, which has failed utterly to discover appreciable heat in the rays from any celestial body (though so sensitive as to measure the heat rays from a stove half a mile away), but on being turned upon the moon by the present Lord Rosse induced him to declare that same body to be colder than the Arctic circle, which his celebrated predecessor declared to be as hot as boiling water!

"Apparently we must wait for more certain and concordant results before concluding that the condition of Mars is as very different from that of earth; and we may yet hope that, since other eminent observers have seen clouds and mists, evanescent falls of snow or hail upon the soil and other indications of atmospheric action, air is not wholly wanting. Especially must we take with caution the conclusions of those who, apart from all instrumental evidence, base their calculations upon the 'kinetic' theory of gases, and roundly state that the attraction of so small a body as Mars would be insufficient to retain a gaseous envelope about him, of which 'the outer atoms would be ever flying off through space' to parts unknown.

"If so encouraging a conclusion could be correct then how is it that the comets, which have not a millionth part of Mars' mass, manage to retain for an instant the huge and inconceivably rare atmosphere which surround and follow them? Clearly the kinetic theory of gases—admirable approximation toward

an underlying law—requires some moderation in its use and not to be strained too far.

"And then there is a solid argument that we have not yet seen advanced in favor of an atmosphere of some refractive power at least on Mars' surface. When drawings and photographs of the moon are examined carefully it is found that in the 'gibbous' or incomplete phases of illumination the 'terminator' or boundary between light and darkness on the surface is nearer the center than it should be theoretically. It may be here argued that the general shape of the lunar surface which is always facing us may be such as to give the effect observed; it may be flatter than the regular disk would indicate; we are not forced to conclude that there is a gaseous envelope which refracts the sun's rays and carries them on further toward the center of the disk—however probable such a circumstance may be. But when W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory tells us that Mars—which turns swiftly upon his axis and, therefore, can have no such undetected irregularity of figure—exhibits the same phenomenon, we may fairly assert that the advancement of the 'terminator' toward the center of the disk must be an atmospheric effect, whereby the gaseous envelope of Mars prolongs the hours of light upon his surface just as our own air does upon the earth.

"A fortnight or more ago Mars was in opposition—that is to say, our earth passed between him and the sun; and we saw his surface consequently in full illumination, just as we see the moon at full when she is in opposition to the sun. Familiarly speaking, in our race around the orb of day we had overtaken Mars, which, upon his wider circle, takes twice as long to make his revolution; and now we begin to see a little of his darkened side. Since his daily rotation is in the same direction as his course (as with our earth also), the 'terminator' or the incomplete edge of the enlightened disk is (the reverse of what occurred before opposition) a morning line; and the natural features of Mars' surface are coming out of the darkness behind the planet into the light or day in front.

"This, therefore, is the time when inequalities upon his surface can be best detected; and therefore every favorable hour will be eagerly utilized at the Lick and other observatories to obtain further information as to those remarkable bright spots that have been seen (like the mountains and crater-peaks of the moon) shining out of the morning darkness at the first touch of the advancing sunlight upon the Martian surface. Gradually we shall know whether these are high clouds, as supposed by some, or simply mountains capped with snow or mist; as more probably they are, from their occupying approximately the same position at each successive appearance. This point will have vast importance in speculations as to the conditions of Mars' crust; as to the determination of land or water; as to atmosphere, and finally as to habitation by life forms comparable with ours.

"The so-called 'canals' seem gradually to be ceasing (as in reason they should cease) to be regarded as manifest indications of the work of intelligent beings. Their vast length and great width oppose such an explanation; and their curious regularity at the same time is easily comparable with that of similar features upon the moon, familiar to those who, like the writer, have studied much and long the lunar surface in an equatorial telescope of the larger size.

"Mr. J. R. Holt, the Dublin astronomer, has recently explained these angular streaks in this sense; as being fissures occurring through contractions in the crust of Mars when half cooled, afterward in part filled up with molten matter, and in process of ages converted into valleys, perhaps covered with vegetation, and in the center of which a wide waterway has traced its path. This explanation would certainly reasonably account for the changing invisibility of those curious features—since vegetation varies in tint according to the season—and also for the passage they seem to give to the waters on the melting of the snow-caps. Possibly, also, it would very simply account for the 'duplication' of these channels—a phenomenon which has so puzzled all observers since the time of Schiaparelli, who first noted these extensive 'double canals.' The vegetation on each side of the wide channel, changing in color and shade with the seasons of the Martian year, would sometimes harmonize and sometimes contrast, now with the water channel, and again with the surrounding country; and so become invisible or visible, according to the circumstances. In this connection Mr. J. R. Holt recently referred ('L'Astronomie,' p. 337, Sept. '94) to an observation made by Schiaparelli on the 26th of December, 1879, upon a wide white streak which appeared in Mars and seemed to be the track of a storm of snow or hail. With absorbing interest doubtless he looked to see if it crossed one of these canals (the Nile) without interruption; for, if so, no water could be there, of course. He found that the center only of that canal completely absorbed the snowy streak and appeared like a thin thread joining the broken ends of the wide course of the Nile, thus proving apparently that water existed only in the center of these channels, and that the bands on each side which formed the remainder of their visible width were terra firma, capable of receiving unmetted the passing deposit of hail or snow that was being observed.

"Space would fail, however, to detail the many interesting and instructive observations which have been made upon this earthlike planet, both in America and in Europe; but sufficient has been said to show the reasons for the extraordinary enthusiasm manifested at all great observatories during the present near approach of Mars.

"But why, it will be asked by some who, from want of thought, from religious prejudices or from a too great absorption in the things of this particular planet, are unwilling to look upward and outward to other worlds in process of creation like our own, why should we expect habitation and human life, or, indeed, any life at all, upon those other shining bodies in the heavens, even supposing that they are constructed materially like our earth?

"To this it may be frankly and promptly answered that the improbability of our particular grain of dust in the midst of the infinite cloud of such planetary dust around us being the only one containing life is so great that every reflective mind must at once reject such a supposition.

"By millions we may count the stars already, and our improving optical and photographic appliances add millions of new-found suns to these; but yet it is not there any more than upon our own flaming sun that we seek for life developed to such a stage as we could comprehend. Each of these blazing orbs has its planets, its dark satellites, shining only by the light of their sun and therefore too faintly to be seen at such vast distances—for our own earth would be quite invisible even at a distance such that light would take a day to traverse, while the nearest of these suns, Alpha Centauri, takes four years to reach us. Well may we say: 'How wonderful are thy works, Lord God Almighty, in wisdom. Thou hast made them all.'"

# Bottles That You Cannot Refill

Manufacturers of liquors, wines, sauces and patent medicines have for years endeavored to devise some means of protection against unscrupulous people who not alone imitate brands, but boldly substitute inferior articles in the original packages. Thus far, however, no satisfactory non-refilling bottle has been put on the market, and the victimized manufacturers have concluded that such a thing as a non-refilling bottle is an impossibility. Many patents have been taken out with no other result than a loss of sixty or more dollars to the inventor, and still the brain-racking work goes on, having received an impetus through the alleged offer of a whisky firm of \$100,000 bonus to the inventor of a bottle which once emptied cannot be refilled. Hundreds of people in this City have for months past tried to solve the problem, and every number of the Patent Office Gazette contains one or more devices for which claims are made that even a cursory glance proves to be defective. Some of these contrivances are interesting because of their absurdity and none are of any use.

Accompanying sketches show the idea of an Eastern inventor of how he would prevent a bottle from being refilled. A specially designed bottle with a valve V closing its mouth, and over this a cap packed partly with cement, C, and thus fastened to the bottle, are the main features. In the cap or cover are two ports through which the liquor may be poured, figure 2 showing the port in circular dotted lines. The corrugated outline of the cover is presumably to get a grip on the bottle. Aside from the clumsiness of the thing, the cost of making and attaching the cap to the bottle would be out of proportion to the value of the service it would render, and, worse than all, it is not a non-refillable bottle, for it would only be necessary to place it on its head in a filled tub or tank and with slight manipulation the

air could be let out and the bottle would eventually fill up.

A curious Canadian contrivance is that shown in figure 3. It is a special bottle with a swelling and an inside rim at the junction of the neck and body of the bottle. A metallic sleeve to which is attached a trap with a spring and a tumbling ball valve is pushed down the neck until the shutting-off valves rest on the raised glass rim.

The inventor keeps to himself the secret as to the manner of fastening and working the spring, and in the design of the bottle, with its two inside rims, the possibilities of glass-blowing will be severely tried if put to a practical test. This bottle, however, like that previously described, is doomed to disappoint its inventor, for the probabilities are that the bottle cannot be made as designed, the metallic contrivance will not be accepted by any liquor firm, it is too costly and complicated to be of commercial value, and, finally, there is nothing to prevent the withdrawal of the sleeve with its paraphernalia, put in "Jersey lightning" for "honey dew" and replace the sleeve. It is not a non-refilling bottle, and the inventor has no good claim on the \$100,000 prize.

A third non-refilling bottle is also a Canadian patent, although the inventor is a New Yorker. It is much less complicated than many others. It has one serious defect, however, in that no means are provided for keeping the metallic valve in its place, and even if a seat was made by a rim the valve being of metal would preclude its use for liquors, sauces, medicines or wines.

There is an endless variety of worthless patents in this particular line, and the time and money wasted must be something astounding. Still the work goes on, and a glass factory in this City has a great assortment of especially designed bottles made for inventors in the non-refilling bottle line. Inventors, as a rule, speedily develop into cranks, and they are hard to deal with. Each one asserts that his is the only bottle that cannot be refilled. Arguments to the contrary have no effect, and only actual demonstration does convince him that his invention is not quite perfect. He usually departs in a huff, as if some mortal wrong had been done to him.

Now, notwithstanding the fact that wholesale liquor-dealers do not believe in the possibility of a non-refilling bottle, still i

inventors keep busy, and while the

layers of the paper and having two free ends at the flaps of the envelope. They do not come out at the ends of the flap but a short distance back on the inside.

The gum on the envelope is to be moistened the usual way and the flap pressed partly down. The two free ends of the cord are then tied in a hard knot and the ends clipped off close. The remaining portion of the flap is then pressed down over the knot. Thus sealed it would be impossible to open the envelope without in some way destroying part of it, which would of course cause immediate detection.

NEW TO-DAY.

From U.S. Journal of Medicine.

Prof. W. H. Peeke,

who makes a special-

ity of Epilepsy, has

without doubt treat-

ed and cured more

cases than any living

Physician; his success

is astonish-

ing. We have

heard of

cases of 20 years' standing cured by

him. He publishes a valuable work

on this disease, which he sends

with a large bottle of his absolute

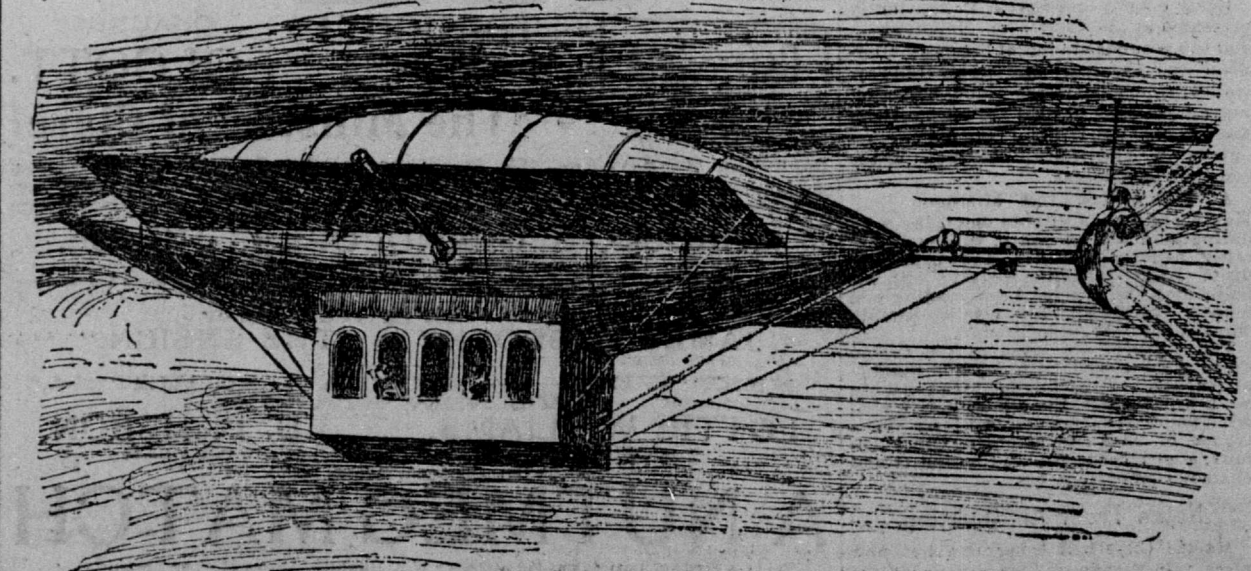
cure, free to any sufferer who may

send their P.O. and Express address.

We advise anyone wishing a cure

to address

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.



AN ELECTRIC AIRSHIP.

This is the invention of a genius living in Southampton, L. I. It is built of aluminum. The motive force is electricity. Its inventor is confident that it can attain a speed of one hundred miles an hour.—New York Herald.



## Politische Umschau

### Europäische Lage

Großbritannien ist infolge des Ausganges seiner letzten Wahlen nicht in der Lage, kühne Schritte in der Außenpolitik zu unternehmen. In Italien gibt es ernste Konflikte. In Frankreich folgt ein Streik auf den anderen. Der Europarat hat bisher keinen nennenswerten Erfolg gebracht. Angesichts dieser Schlagen ist ein echter Glaube an die Zukunft Europas nicht stark verankert. Es wäre ein großer Irrtum, wenn sich die westliche Welt durch ein falsches Sicherheitsgefühl einschlafen ließe. Man kann annehmen, daß für Sowjetrußland der Krieg dafür stünde, wenn es durch ihn Europa in die Hand bekäme. Ein Frieden kann nur gesichert werden, wenn die sowjetischen Staatsmänner von der Unmöglichkeit der Eroberung Europas überzeugt werden.

### Krise in Belgien dauert weiter

Nachdem bis jetzt alle Versuche zur Lösung der Königsfrage gescheitert waren, hat Prinzregent Charles den Vorsitzenden der liberalen Partei, Staatsminister Devez, mit der Bildung einer neuen Regierung betraut. Sollte diese Aufgabe nicht gelingen und das Parlament keine Lösung der Königsfrage finden, so stünde das Land zwischen dem gefährlichen Abenteuer und der Auflösung des Parlamentes. Es ist anzunehmen, daß es zur zweiten Lösung kommen wird, da Devez nicht die Unterstützung der christlichsozialen Partei finden dürfte.

### Kommunistische Offensive in Italien hat begonnen

Der kommunistische geführte allgemeine Gewerkschaftsbund rief zu einem das ganze Land umfassenden Generalstreik auf. Der nichtkommunistische allgemeine Arbeiterverband beteiligte sich nicht an diesen Wühlaktionen. In der rund 50.000 Einwohner zählenden Stadt San Severo (Süditalien) hatten Arbeiter Straßensperren rings um die Stadt errichtet und warfen Handgranaten gegen die Polizeikräfte. Die nur 80 Mann starke Polizei mußte sich in ihre Kasernen zurückziehen. Motorisierten Militär-, Karabinier- und Polizeieinheiten gelang es mit Unterstützung von sechs Panzerwagen die Ordnung wieder herzustellen.

### Faktgerichte Berlin—Moskau

Rußland soll die Absicht haben, mit Ostdeutschland ein enges Bündnis einzugehen, die Oder-Neisse-Linie aufzuheben, Ostpreußen ebenfalls zurückzugeben und einen deutsch-russischen Sowjetblock zu schaffen. Diese Vereinbarung soll in Form eines Sonderfriedens getroffen werden, den auch sämtliche volkdemokratischen Satellitenstaaten zu unterzeichnen hätten.

### Tschechoslowakei

Die sogenannten „fortschrittlichen“ katholischen Priester, die unter Mitwirkung der Weisungen des Vatikans sich der kommunistischen Regierung gebeugt hatten, beschuldigten die treuen kirchlichen Würdenträger, das patriotische tschechoslowakische Volk in die Irre zu führen. Diese Erklärungen waren auf einer Konferenz gefaßt worden, an der nur 50 „fortschrittliche“ Priester teilnahmen. Den Vorsitz dieser Konferenz führte der kürzlich vom Staat eingesetzte Bistumsverweser von Banská Bystrica, Jan Decht, der, weil er diese Ernennung annahm, vom Vatikan exkommuniziert wurde.

### Aus Österreich

#### Ergebnisse der Landwirtschaftskammerwahlen in Salzburg

Im Lande Salzburg fanden bei rund 70 prozentiger Wahlbeteiligung die Wahlen für die Landwirtschaftskammer und die Bezirksbauernkammern und für die Landarbeiterkammer statt. Von den 17 Mandaten in der Landwirtschaftskammer fielen sämtliche 17 dem Bauernbund zu. Von den 50 Mandaten in den Bezirksbauernkammern erreichte der Bauernbund 48, während die SPÖ zwei Mandate errang. Der VdU, der auch kandidierte, konnte kein Mandat erringen. Bei der Landarbeiterkammerwahl fielen von den insgesamt 24 Mandaten 15 auf den Land- und Forstarbeiterbund, 9 auf die SPÖ, auf den VdU kein Mandat.

#### Reform des Ehegesetzes gefordert

Am 21. und 22. März tagte in Wien die diesjährige Frühjahrskonferenz der österreichischen Bischöfe unter dem Vorsitz des Kardinals Innitzer, Erzbischof von Wien. Anwesend waren weiter: Andreas Rohrer, Fürstbischof von Salzburg; Franz Jáchym, Koadjutor von Wien; Ferdinand Pawlikowski, Fürstbischof von Sankt Pölten; Michael Memelauer, Bischof von Seckau; Paulus Ruch, Apostolischer Administrator von Innsbruck-Feldkirch; Josef Köstner, Fürstbischof von Gurk-Klagenfurt; Franz Zauner, Koadjutor von Linz und Josef Scholwohl, Apostolischer Administrator des Burgenlandes. Die Bischöfe besprachen die aktuellen Probleme von Ehe, Schule und Konkordat, das Studium der Priesterstudenten, die katholische Aktion, Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten, Siedlungsfragen u. a. Vor allem wird die Reform des nationalsozialistischen Ehegesetzes gefordert, kein Zwang zur Zivilehe, sondern freie kirchliche Ehe, die staatslischerseits Anerkennung findet. Der Staat hat kein Recht auf das Sakrament der Ehe. Er darf noch viel weniger einen Priester verurteilen, der nach den Gesetzen der Kirche eine Ehe einsegnet. Am 6. März 1950 nämlich verurteilte das Wiener Strafgericht den Stadtpfarrer von Vöcklabruck, Dr. Nikoissi, zu drei Wochen (bedingten) Arrest, weil dieser im Auftrag seines Vorgesetzten den Volksdeutschen Ukrainer Friedrich Springer mit der Österreicherin Anna

Ahammer kirchlich getraut hatte, ohne daß das Paar vorher von einem Standesbeamten getraut worden war. Das Gericht hätte den Angeklagten den Umstand des „unwiderrstehlichen Zwanges“ zubilligen und sie freisprechen können. Friedrich Springer ist Ukrainer. Die Russen stehen auf dem unverständlichen Standpunkt, daß jeder auf russischem Gebiet Geborene, einzelner oder er nun Flüchtling ist oder eine fremde Staatsbürgerschaft besitzt, eine Ehe mit einer Ausländerin nur dann schließen darf, wenn er von der zuständigen Sowjetbehörde dazu die Sondergenehmigung erhält. Geradezu selbstverständlich ist es, daß ein ukrainischer Flüchtling (Volksdeutscher) eine solche Sondergenehmigung nicht bekommt. Die österreichischen Standesämter sind vom Ministerium angewiesen, keine Trauung eines Sowjetbürgers mit einer Nicht-Sowjetbürgerin vorzunehmen.

Kurzum: Springer und Ahammer, beide streng gläubig, hätten vor dem Standesamt gar nicht geheiratet. Das Evangelium steht über dem Befehl einer Gewaltherrschaft. Die Forderung des katholischen Episkopates ist völlig berechtigt. Es muß ein Gesetz erlassen werden, das die kirchliche Trauung als der zivilen gleichgestellt anerkennt.

## Was hat das Land an Ausgaben zu tragen?

Der dem Tiroler Landtag zur Beschlussfassung vorgelegte ordentliche Haushalt für 1950 sieht Einnahmen von 113.716.600 S und Ausgaben von 114.404.800 S, daher einen Abgang von 688.200 S vor. Der außerordentliche Landesvoranschlag dagegen 27.556.000 S. Abgänge werden im ordentlichen Landeshaushalt durch verfügbare Kassa-bestände, im außerordentlichen Landeshaushalt ebenso durch verfügbare Kassa-bestände und durch Darlehen gedeckt. Die Erstellung des Voranschlags erfolgte durch den Finanzausschuß.

### Ordentlicher Voranschlag 1950

	Einnahmen	Ausgaben
Landtag und allgemeine Verwaltung	1949 892.000 1950 1.277.950	1949 25.463.000 1950 28.934.500
Polizei	28.200	28.200
Schulwesen	43.200	1.060.300
Kultur- und Gemeinschaftspflege	43.200	2.090.900
Fürsorgewesen und Jugendhilfe	2.482.500	4.327.900
Gesundheitswesen und körperliche Erleichterung	13.218.800	15.354.800
Bau-, Wohnungs- und Siedlungswesen	11.200	16.088.600
Öffentliche Einrichtungen und Wirtschaftsförderung	463.200	957.200
Wirtschaftliche Unternehmen und Beteiligungen	7.500	17.300
Finanz- und Vermögensverwaltung	59.537.500	90.970.500
	76.664.100	113.716.600

Im Jahre 1949 betrugen die Ausgaben des ordentlichen Haushaltes 77.967.800 S, die außerordentlichen 11.639.000.

Ein Vergleich mit dem Budget von 1949 wäre irreführend, da bei den Mehrausgaben von 36.000.000 S 16.000.000 S durchlaufende Posten enthalten sind, die auf Anregung des Rechnungshofes aufgenommen wurden. Die Mehrausgaben betragen praktisch nur 20.000.000, ein Betrag, der durch die Verteuerung gerechtfertigt erscheint.

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## Das Land Tirol für die Schulen

In fast 50 Gemeinden Tirols wurden im vergangenen Jahr neue Schulhausbauten aufgeführt bzw. bereits im Bau befindliche Häuser vollendet. Das Land schüttete dafür insgesamt 3.461.800 S an Bedarfszuweisungen aus, und zwar erhielten: der Bezirk Imst 355.000 S, der Bezirk Innsbruck-Land (der größte Tirols) 1.176.000 S, der Bezirk Kitzbühel 115.800 S, der Bezirk Kufstein 315.000 S, der Bezirk Landeck 275.000 S, der Bezirk Lienz 205.000 S, Reutte 470.000 S und Schwaz 550.000 S.

Allerdings gab es verschiedene Gemeinden, darunter Wattens, die keine Bedarfszuweisungen in Anspruch nahmen. Im allgemeinen aber bieten die Beträge, die ja vom Land praktisch nur verwaltet werden, ein gutes Bild der wirtschaftlichen Situation der einzelnen Gemeinden und darüber hinaus des Opferwillens unserer Gemeindevsverwaltungen, der ihnen anvertrauten Schuljugend gesunde und moderne Schulräume zu schaffen. Wir bringen nachstehend eine Statistik über die im Jahre 1949 mit Bedarfszuweisungen beteiligten Gemeinden:

Bezirk Innsbruck-Land: Absam 100.000 S, Altdorf 130.000 S, Axams 25.000 S, Großglocknerberg 20.000 S, Leutasch 100.000 S, Nöcker (Neustift) 46.000 S, Rum 100.000 S, Schmirn (Behebung von Kriegsschäden) 10.000 S, Schönberg 60.000 S, Solbad Hall 140.000 S, Thaur 135.000 S, Vals 30.000 S, Wildermieming 80.000 S, Zirl 200.000 S. Bezirk Schwaz: Ginzling 120.000 S, Gallzein

180.000 S, Schlitters 100.000 S, Schwaz H. Sch. 150.000 S.

Bezirk Kitzbühel: Kirchdorf (Gasteig) 10.000 S, Oberndorf 95.000 S, St. Ulrich a. P. 10.800 S.

Bezirk Kufstein: Außerhalb 100.000 S, Breitenbach 100.000 S, Erl 25.000 S, Kirchbühl 30.000 S, Kramsach 20.000 S, Kundl 10.000 S, Reith b. Brixlegg 10.000 S, Schwoich (Bromberg) 20.000 S.

Bezirk Imst: Längenfeld 25.000 S, Mieming (Schulhausbau Barwies) 10.000 S, Mils 190.000 S, Tarnegg 90.000 S, Wengs 40.000 S.

Bezirk Landeck: Kappl (Glitterberg) 40.000 S, Pfunds (Wand) 30.000 S, Prutz 5000 S, Stanz 20.000 S, Zams 100.000 S, Lafais 80.000 S.

Bezirk Reutte: Ebenbichl 160.000 S, Pfafflar 40.000 S, Steeg 180.000 S, Vorderhornbach 90.000 S.

Bezirk Osttirol: Nußdorf 15.000 S, Prägraten 90.000 S, Sillian 15.000 S, Tristach 85.000 S.

Es ist bekannt, daß die Gemeinden selbst bedeutende Mittel aufbringen müssen, ehe an den Bau geschritten werden kann. Die von uns zitierten Zahlen sprechen daher für sich. Uns bleibt nur noch der Wunsch, die neu gewählten Gemeindeverwaltungen mögen in ihrer Mühe nicht erlahmen, der städtischen und Dorfjugend — ebenso wie ihre Vorgänger — würdige Lehranstalten zu erbauen. Allerdings ohne das zumindest ebenso wichtige Problem der Wohnungsbeschaffung nicht außer acht zu lassen.... -ms-

## „Fliegende Untertassen“

Wie der Vorarlberger Gendarmeriebericht meldet, wurden am Montag um 15.30 Uhr zehn Minuten lang von mehreren Personen ein runder, glänzender Körper mit einem nebelartigen Kondensstreifen von etwa 30 Meter Länge gesichtet, der, von Osten kommend, in großer Höhe und mit sehr großer Geschwindigkeit über Bludenz in Richtung Westen flog. Dieselbe Erscheinung wurde gestern um 10.45 Uhr vormittags in Bludenz von drei Personen wieder gesehen. Dieselbe bewegte sich der Kondensstreifen in Richtung Nordwest-Südost und bog dann genau in Richtung West (Schweiz) ab. Vergangenen Freitag nacht wurden auch in Wien von zwei Polizisten mehrere „fliegende Untertassen“ gesehen.

### Das Rätsel gelöst?

Der italienische Ingenieur Giuseppe Beluzzo, ein Fachmann auf dem Gebiet des Turbinenbaues, der während des Krieges in der italienischen Rüstungsindustrie an leitender Stelle tätig und auch ein Minister Mussolinis war, erklärte, daß die Deutschen und Italiener schon 1942 Versuche mit fliegenden Scheiben gemacht hätten. Er selbst habe Pläne für solche Apparate gezeichnet. Diese

Pläne seien 1943 verschwunden, als Mussolini nach Norditalien floh. Möglicherweise sind sie nach Deutschland gelangt und hier mit anderen Plänen über deutsche Kriegerfindungen 1945 von den alliierten Mächten erbeutet worden.

Beluzzo schildert das Flugzeug, das er entwarf, als eine Scheibe von zehn Metern Durchmesser. Das Konstruktionsprinzip ist sehr einfach, der Apparat kann aus jedem Leichtmetall hergestellt werden. Die „fliegende Untertasse“, die Beluzzo konstruiert haben will, wird durch zwei Düsenmotoren angetrieben, die mit einem Gemisch aus komprimierter Luft und Rohöl betrieben werden. Die Maschine muß nicht unbedingt von einem Piloten gelenkt werden. Man könnte sie wie einen V-1- oder V-2-Geschoß abschießen.

Der amerikanische Rundfunkkommentator Henry Taylor erklärte, die „fliegenden Untertassen“ kämen weder von einem anderen Planeten, noch aus der Sowjetunion, sondern aus den USA. Seiner Ansicht nach sei das „militärische Geheimnis“ der „fliegenden Untertassen“ nichts anderes, als funktgesteuerte Geschosse, die sich nach einiger Zeit im Luftraum verlor.

aus Magermilch erzeugten „Quargeln“ werden im Verbraucherpreis von S 11.— auf S 9,20 pro Kilogramm ermäßigt.

Die Auffütterung der Milch wurde möglich durch die ständig zunehmende Milchlieferung sowie die günstige Gestaltung des Weltmarktes in Fettstoffen. Die Milchauflistung bedeutet wieder einen großen Schritt vorwärts zur friedensmäßigen Gestaltung der Ernährungs- und Lebensgewohnheiten und gleichzeitig die beste Propaganda für einen erhöhten Milchverbrauch.

### Verlängerung der Todesstrafe

Gegenwärtig steht wieder im Parlament die Verlängerung der Todesstrafe auf eine kürzere Frist wieder zur Behandlung. Wenn schon die heutigen Zeiten nicht dazu angetan sind, die Todesstrafe aufzuheben, so möchte man doch mit Rücksicht auf die große Zahl von Verbrechen, die für die nächste Zeit keine Minderung erwarten lassen, das Gesetz auf eine längere Zeit hinaus ausdehnen.

### Bundeskanzler Figl besichtigt den Lindner-Kleintraktor

Anläßlich der Wiener Messe hat Bundeskanzler Dr. Ing. Figl dem Tiroler Konstrukteur die Ehre des zweimaligen Besuches erwiesen. Kanzler Figl ließ sich den neuen Diesel-Klein-Traktor mit den diversen Zusatzgeräten (Mähkneben, Seilwinde mit mechanischer Seilführung, Gabelwender usw.) vorführen und über die Arbeitsweise eingehend unterrichten. Sichtlich erfreut über die wohlgeplante Konstruktion und die vielseitige Verwendung erkundigte sich der Bundeskanzler über den Geschäftsgang, worauf Ing. Lindner über das Interesse des In- und Auslandes berichtete. Es ist auch keinesfalls übertrieben, wenn festgestellt wird, daß der Lindner-Traktor seiner Leistung und insbesondere seiner Vielseitigkeit wegen als der Universal-Klein-Traktor der Gegenwart bezeichnet wird.

### Vorbereitung zur Export- und Mustermesse

Vom 26. August bis 3. September soll heuer wieder in Innsbruck die erste Export- und Mustermesse durchgeführt werden. Für die Messe wurden von der Besatzungsmacht die Ausstellungshallen und die benachbarte Reitschule freigegeben. Als weitere Ausstellungsräume werden die Haupt- und Volksküche in Pradl sowie der große und kleine Stadtsaal freigegeben. Die österreichischen Bundesbahnen werden für die Messebesucher eine 25prozentige Fahrpreisermäßigung gewähren. 254 Firmen aller Wirtschaftszweige haben sich bereits für die Messe angemeldet. Reges Interesse besteht in der Tschechoslowakei und auch in Ungarn.

### Neue Wellenlänge der Sendepräge West

Ab 30. März, 6 Uhr früh, senden Radio Innsbruck und Radio Vorarlberg auf Welle 4765 m (629 kHz). Diese Maßnahme erfolgte, um dem Sender Beromünster auszuweichen. Die neue Welle befindet sich dort, wo die alten Skalen den Sender Prag anzeigten.

### Aus Südtirol

Die „Bauernzeitung“ berichtete kürzlich über eine Anfrage des italienischen Abgeordneten Almirante an Ministerpräsident De Gasperi, wie lange er gedulde, den Namen Südtirol zu dulden. Almirante brief sich dabei auf einen Fremdenverkehrs-Werbeprospekt, der in verschiedenen Sprachen gedruckt worden war und die Aufschrift „Trentino — Südtirol“ trug. Der greise Don Sturzo, der seinerzeitige Vorsitzende der christlichen Volkspartei Italiens (PPI), der erst kürzlich seine Stimme auch gegen die Pressehefte gegen Südtirol erhoben hatte, nahm in einem Brief an den Chefredakteur der Trentiner Zeitung „Il Popolo Trentino“ zu dieser Frage Stellung und betonte: „Wenn Ihnen eines Zeugnisses für die Zweckmäßigkeit der Beibehaltung des Namens Südtirol dienlich sein kann, so sei sie hier gegeben. Sowohl in England als auch in den Vereinigten Staaten versuchte ich mehrmals, in meinen Schriften die Benennung „Alto Adige“ zu gebrauchen; die Herausgeber von Büchern und Zeitschriften bestanden aber darauf, sie durch Südtirol (auf englisch South Tyrol) zu ersetzen, denn der Durchschnittsgländer hat keine Ahnung vom Vorhandensein eines „Alto Adige“, wogegen ihm Tirol und Südtirol wohl bekannt sind. Dies ist übrigens auch der Name, der in diplomatischen Protokollen verwendet wird. Was aber auch Italiener näher angeht, ist die Tatsache, daß im Handelsverkehr für die Erzeugnisse aus dem Alto Adige eben „Südtirol“ die gebräuchliche Bezeichnung ist. Und nirgends ist man so konservativ wie auf dem Gebiete der Warenketten und Handelsbezeichnungen. Wenn man die Obereiterer Produzenten zum Gebrauch einer in der Handelswelt unbekannten Bezeichnung zwingt, so wird man die halbe Kundschaft verlieren und weiß Gott wieviel es dann kostet mag, sie wiederzugewinnen.“ Dieser Stellungnahme Don Sturzos kommt um so mehr Gewicht zu, als ja bekannt ist, daß der greise Politiker im Priesterkleid auch heute noch einen gewaltigen Einfluß auf die christlichdemokratischen Massen Italiens ausübt.

### Was ist die FAO?

Die FAO ist die Ernährungs- und Landwirtschaftsorganisation der Vereinten Nationen mit dem Hauptquartier in Washington. Für Europa ist das Büro in Rom. Österreich ist seit 1947 Mitglied dieser Organisation. Die FAO ist keine unmittelbare Hilfsorganisation wie einst die UNRRA, sondern sie will durch erzieherische Maßnahmen, durch Beratung, durch gemeinsame Besprechungen zum wirklich wirtschaftspolitischen Handeln ihr weitestgehendes Ziel erreichen.







**Spettacoli**  
**Cultura**

**Il personaggio** Esce in Italia la straordinaria autobiografia di Louise Brooks, la prima anti-diva della storia del cinema

## Lulù processa Hollywood

**T**RA DUE anni Louise Brooks, la favolosa Lulù, ne avrà ottanta. Marlene Dietrich li ha già compiuti e la divina Gretta Garbo li farà l'anno venturo. Una grande triade di stelle e, come nel cosmo, tre grandi solitudini. Ma Louise, allevata nel divismo, fu l'unica a rifiutarlo. Se la tedesca e la svedese fecero il grosso della loro carriera a Hollywood, l'americana del Kansas andò a conquistare gloria cinematografica in Europa. Quasi tutti gli altri Stati di sprezzavano il Kansas. Lei aveva un carattere ribelle e un cervello che pensava: non disprezzò Hollywood ma ne prese le distanze molto prima di tanti suoi colleghi. Come la Garbo e altre, fu commessa di grandi magazzini: ma dopo la celebrità, non prima. Preferiva essere uno squillo di lusso che la pupa di un produttore o la schiava dello star-system. Si ubriacava,

piuttosto che essere lucida per fregare il prossimo. Tempo fa in televisione la si vide nella sua casa di Rochester, New York, sola tra i molti libri amati fin da bambina e i quadri dipinti in età adulta. Ancor bella con l'alta fronte una volta nascosta dalla frangente più famosa del mondo, quella che dal 1926 e per quarant'anni ispirò la Dixie Dugan del fumetto americano al disegnatore John Striebel, lontani precursori di Crepax e Valentini. La lunga cascata di capelli è imprevedibile in chi era stata il simbolo d'una generazione col suo caschetto d'ebano alla garçonne. Non finge d'essere un intellettuale, lo è. Come non fingeva quando sul set di Lulù leggeva gli aforismi di Schopenhauer. Li leggeva veramente, sia pure in traduzione inglese. Il suo volumetto di ricordi di vite e di saggi sul cinema, che

ora appare in italiano da Ubibri, s'intitola *Lulù a Hollywood*, dal nome appunto del personaggio interpretato nel 1928 a Berlino, nel film di G. W. Pabst che oggi tutti in suo onore, e magari con l'accento, chiamano semplicemente *Lulù*, nel capitolo che si riferisce a quella decisiva esperienza, la Brooks scrive tra l'altro: «Io ero una ballerina e Pabst era soprattutto un coreografo». Sembra un'osservazione da niente, ma dà la misura della sua consapevolezza critica. Infatti è una chiave per entrare in quel classico del muto tedesco, che da poco si è rivisto all'Obraz Cinescopio di Milano in un'edizione finalmente restaurata e completa. Non si potrebbe altrimenti capire l'esplosione gioiosa dell'intermezzo girato dietro le quinte, dove non si mostra mai il palcoscenico su cui Lulù dovrà esibirsi in

uno spettacolo finanziato dal riccone che la mantiene, ma si inquadra i suoi liberi passi di danza tra l'allegria confusione di un cambio di numero. L'attrice non aveva letto la sceneggiatura e ignorava che il personaggio dovesse esprimersi e reagire alle frustrazioni balando, e il regista non sapeva (crediamo perché lo dice lei, sempre onesta e schietta) che la Lulù così pervicacemente scelta contro il parere di tutti fosse una ballerina professionista. L'aveva adocchiata in uno dei suoi film hollywoodiani ma non si aspettava che fosse cresciuta addirittura alle Ziegfeld Folies. Dal canto suo Louise si era documentata sulle goffe proietture di Asta Nielsen che aveva affrontato la Lulù di Wedekind cinque anni prima di lei. A giudizio della cameriera tedesca che la adorava e ch'era stata al servizio anche dell'altra, Asta era la più grande attrice del

mondo e lei la peggiore. Ma quando Pabst scoprì la sua vera natura da quei pochi passi di prova fuori dalle luci della ribalta, e che tali sarebbero rimasti sullo schermo, fu sicuro di non essersi sbagliato. Ecco perché la sequenza è essenziale nella definizione della nuova Lulù, ricreata nei tempi nuovi del cinema; ed ecco perché Louise Brooks chiama Pabst coreografo e non cineasta. Bellezza, innocenza, armonia erano tutte dalla parte sua. Davvero fu lei il wedekindiano spirito della terra e della primavera, che Béla Balázs aveva esaltato nella Nielsen: «Non è immorale, ma una pericolosa forza della natura, innocente come un animale da preda». Non fece la Lulù tedesca che avrebbe potuto fare Marlene due anni prima della pure immortale Lola-Lola dell'Angelo azzurro: la Dietrich era stata bensì interpretata dal regista, ma rifiutata per il suo arma-

mentario di sguardi lascivi, per le sue pose troppo scopertamente sexy. Invece Louise, a forza di naturalezza, la cred, si fa per dire, quasi da nulla ma enormemente più scandalosa, provocatoria e moderna. L'etero femminino personificato, senza limiti di nazionalità o di morale; una Lulù radiosa nel sorriso, luminosa nel corpo, neppure lambita dalla fiamma della perversione che è attorno a lei e nella quale sprofonda. «Fu così — annota con sereno orgoglio — che la mia interpretazione della tragica Lulù priva di qualsiasi senso del peccato rimase inaccettabile per un quarto di secolo». Ma che rapporto c'è tra Lulù e Hollywood? Quasi nessuno, perché prima venne il triennio a Hollywood e poi la trilogia che fece di Louise Brooks, come scrisse con enfasi Francesco Savio nel 1951 anticipando gli entusiasmi francesi, «la più grande attrice del cinema europeo». Dopo il caso di Pabst, Pabst non la lasciò scappare, ma la volle subito per il diario di una prostituta, quasi altrettanto memorabile. E Augusto Genina la ereditò a Parigi da Pabst (e da Clair) per quella *Mis Europa* dove una straordinaria metafora finale la faceva cantare sullo schermo (si era nel 1930) anche oltre la morte. Cioè dopo che il suo personaggio veniva assassinato da un uomo, così come Jack lo sventatore aveva pugnalato in un raptus la gentile e ospitale Lulù. Non c'è possibilità di confronto tra l'aura mitica che lei spargeva in questi tre film, e quel poco di personale che le era accaduto di offrire a Hollywood tra il 1925 e l'inizio del '28, quando ruppe con la Paramount. Pone era più o meno un'altra, ma il suo tipo si confondeva ancora con le tante maschiette dell'epoca, schiacciato inevitabilmente tra le coppie di maschioni che andavano di moda: Wallace Beery e Raymond Hatton in *Aviatori per forza*, o i forzuti marinai Victor McLaglen e Robert Armstrong in *Captain Barbablu di Hawke*. Tant'è che in *Beggars of Life* di cui lei parla a lungo nel capitolo sul regista Wellman, si travesti anch'essa da uomo, o meglio da furfantoso monello alla Jackie Coogan. Sulla copertina del libro spicca però, giustamente, un'immagine di femminilità tra le

sue più note: l'ultima che consegnò allora a Hollywood (ma rifiutando più tardi di doppiarla con la propria voce), la prima in cui il suo personaggio era destinato a morire. E *La canarina assassinata*, dov'era vestita secondo le indicazioni di Van Dyke nel suo romanzo giallo: un alato costume di piume, luccicante d'argento, che la rendeva una specie di Icaro, pronta a spiccare il volo. In effetti più volte, nella sua esistenza, Louise Brooks spiccò il volo, allontanandosi dai luoghi con cui aveva deciso di chiudere. Lasciò definitivamente Hollywood nel 1940: la sua ultima apparizione reca la data del '38, in un western interpretato da John Wayne l'anno prima di *Ombre rosse*. Fu un periodo di disoccupazione risolto com'è detto. Ma quando si trasferì a Rochester nel 1956, vi trovò una cineteca che le permise di rivedere non solo i propri film, come si limitò a fare per anni la nostalgica Garbo, ma scoprì anche quelli degli altri: per esempio *Il vento*, il capolavoro americano di Sjöström realizzato a Hollywood quando c'era lei, nel 1927, ma non pubblicizzato perché non si doveva più parlare della grandissima Lillian Gish. Da ciò Louise apprese a guardare con occhi diversi la sua stessa vita a quella degli esseri umani, che la sindrome di Hollywood costringeva a diventare uomini-cassetta oppure a sparire. I suoi ritratti della Gish o della Garbo, di W.C. Fields o di Humphrey Bogart, sono dipinti da vicino, con simpatia, ma il giudizio è obiettivo, storico. Se evoca il castello di Hearst e della Marion Davies, non lo fa dal di fuori come il ragazzo prodigo Orson Welles in *Citizen Kane*, ma dall'interno della presunta festa, di cui era ospite privilegiata. Lo fa con ironia e con dolore, e distrugge quel mondo guardandolo in faccia, senza invidia e senza il senno del poi. La sua acutezza è innata, come la sua generosità. La tragedia della storia del cinema — scrive con furente stupore — è che è fabbricata e falsificata dalle stesse persone che la fanno». Lei l'ha fatta, a suo tempo, tanto da diventare una leggenda vivente. E oggi contribuisce, con intelligenza e con amore, a smitizzarla.

Ugo Casiraghi



La scomparsa a 62 anni dello scrittore modenese autore di tanti best-seller sull'«archeologia spaziale»

## Peter Kolosimo, il fantascienziato

**N**ATO a Modena 62 anni fa, è morto a Milano ieri l'altro **Peter Kolosimo**. Le biografie segnano tra le tappe salienti della sua vita il soggiorno in Germania, dove si laureò in filologia moderna, si arruolò nella Wehrmacht e disertò per passare tra i partigiani cecoslovacchi. **Kolosimo** tornò in Italia a fare il giornalista, ma mantenne ben saldi i legami col mondo politico e accademico est-europeo tanto da essere l'unico inviato italiano ammesso a presenziare alla proclamazione della Repubblica democratica tedesca, uno dei pochi a conoscere in anticipo e nei particolari gli spettacolari progetti spaziali sovietici e uno dei tanti sospettati, come si dice nel gergo della spionaggio politico-militare, d'averne intelligenza con le potenze orientali. **Kolosimo** è stato, infine, da solo e più recentemente, in collaborazione con la moglie Caterina, uno scrittore di successo — e che successo! — in un settore definito a volte archeologia fantastica, a volte archeologia spaziale, che l'ha lanciato nell'orbita invidiata dei best seller italiani e di almeno un'altra cinquantina di paesi stranieri. Un'idea fissa animava tutto il suo lavoro editoriale, un'idea che da sola giustificava la passione con cui i lettori lo seguivano: quella che l'uomo non è solo nell'universo. Le vestigia del passato più remoto recavano segni inspiegabili a meno che non si ammettesse che fossero le tracce di extraterrestri di almeno diecimila anni più evoluti di noi. Lo stesso presente, con i misteri del cosmo e con quelli più emozionanti di alcuni punti ed eventi del nostro pianeta, conferma che gli extraterrestri sono ancora tra noi, investiti di incarichi dei fini imperscrutabili. Il futuro, con la possibilità per l'uomo di uscire dai suoi ristretti limiti di spazio e di tempo, avrebbe portato al rendez-vous che **Kolosimo** ipotizzava con i contemporanei drammatici del racconto. Concludendo due anni fa un articolo in cui dava conto delle teorie del professor Resnais che esortavano l'antropomorfismo degli altri mondi abitati e del pensiero dell'astronomo Papp (negli altri mondi abitati i parenti dell'uomo non gli sono sosia o gemelli), citava allegramente Sidney Jordan, il disegnatore che diede vita all'esploratore dello spazio a fumetti *Jeff Hawk*.

Tutto ciò spiega insieme il fascino delle sue argomentazioni presso il grande pubblico e la diffidenza, talora il disprezzo, che quelle stesse argomentazioni generavano tra gli addetti ai la-

vori. **Kolosimo** sembrava concepire il tempo come una successione lineare di punti: guardato dall'alto, era indifferente che il sostegno alle sue tesi venisse dalla ricerca sperimentale dei laboratori di Berkeley degli anni ottanta, o dalle forzature tardate romantiche di un poeta di inizio secolo come Nietzsche. E inoltre, pur prendendo le mosse da rigorosi postulati scientifici, non aveva timore di contaminare le sue conclusioni decorandole con le interpretazioni parascientifiche delle leggende millenaristiche o della letteratura d'anticipazione. Autore di volumi come «Il Pianeta sconosciuto» e «Civiltà del silenzio», «Fratelli dell'infinito» e «Viaggiatori del tempo», il culmine del successo lo raggiunse nel 1969, quando a «Non è terrestre» fu assegnato il Premio Bancarella. Da allora ad oggi, la divulgazione scientifica ha imboccato una strada che l'ha portata a radicalizzare la dicotomia tra logica e retorica e tra dimostrazione e argomentazione. Oggi, le comunicazioni di massa affidano a Piero Angela e alla sua affabile razionalità il compito di far luce sui misteri della scienza, e a Pippo Baudo e alla sua familiare capacità di intrattenimento quello di ospitare i rodosi paragoni figli di paragoni. I settimanali d'assalto pubblicano lunghi inserti sulle meraviglie del 2000, mentre i rotocalchi popolari raccolgono emozionante confessioni di sensitività e di evasi degli Ufo, di reduci dall'aldilà e di detective dell'impossibile. Nelle sale cinematografiche Harryson Ford predica arche perdute e sui giornali a fumetti Martin Mystère cerca gli extraterrestri tra i sassi di Stone Henge o sotto la fossa delle Bermuda. Lo stesso **Kolosimo**, appena due anni fa, raccontava le sue più recenti ricerche dalle pagine di *Alteralier*, incastonato tra quei monumenti alla fantascienza e all'avventura che sono le storie di Richard Corben e di Hugo Pratt. Morendo ci lascia un'opera a cui, probabilmente, potrà fine sua moglie Caterina, una trilogia sui misteri dell'Universo, della Terra e dell'uomo. Fedele al suo ruolo di investigatore dell'inspiegato e dello stupefacente, del fantastico e del leggendario, in questa sua ultima incompiuta fatica avrebbe tentato di scardinare il nostro indefettibile scetticismo razionalista enumerando tutti quei fatti sui quali la scienza ufficiale preferisce, per calcolo o limitatezza, ancora tacere.

Aurelio Minonne

**IO VESPA, TU JANE**

**VESPA, LA TUA LIANA DA CITTA'**

Oggi la città consuma il tuo tempo in attesa di tram, metro, bus, taxi etc. La città è ferma nel traffico. Vespa è la liana che ti aspetta. Per volare meglio da un capo all'altro. Per farti viaggiare la città senza noia, con simpatia e con eleganza. Oggi più che mai.

**PIAGGIO**



